To the Inhabitants of Southington Society

Gentlemen

A Committee appointed by you, to confer with me, reſpecting certain ſuppoſed Grievances, have call'd upon me. — I find by the Minutes of the Society's Clerk, that the Charge in general, againſt me is, neglect of that part of my Miniſtry, which conſiſts in "viſiting my People, in their diſtreſſes — in ſickneſs &c."

I deny the propriety of this charge; and affirm, that it is like a Multitude of other falſe and groundleſs Stories, which circulate reſpecting me. — I have not allow'd buſineſs of any kind, to divert me from attending on the ſick, whenever I have been call'd to do it. —

Much Converſation paſs'd between your Committee and me; which, if they ſee fit, they will repeat. ——

The ſum of the whole on their part appear'd to be this — that it is commonly ſuppoſed, I have ſo much other buſineſs, as muſt prevent my attending in the beſt Manner, to the buſineſs of the Miniſtry. — — —

My Answer is — that the Salary I have received for ſeveral years paſt, has been totally inadequate to the ſubſiſtence of my family. — I found myſelf neceſſitated therefore, either to call for more Salary — to ceaſe preaching — or to look for part of my ſubſiſtence in ſome other way. —

The firſt Alternative (viz) calling for more Salary, I have ever obſerv'd to be a thankleſs Piece of buſineſs for a Miniſter — the ſecond, ceaſing to preach, did not accord with my Wiſhes. — I have therefore found it neceſſary to adopt the laſt. — —

This now appears not to be acceptable to you. —

I therefore, at this time, do, what I ſhould not have done, had not you given the occaſion, call upon you for a Salary, ſufficient for the maintenance of my family —

the education of my Children — and that increaſe of property, which is reaſonable for a Perſon of my Education and Advantages in Life. ——

It is beyond all queſtion as much your duty, and the ſpirit of our agreements, that you ſhould give me a *full* maintenance, as it is that I ſhould ſpend my time for you.—

If you will do this, I will, as ſoon as poſſible, leave all other buſineſs; and make it the ſole Object of my attention, to regard your Concerns.

If this propoſition be not acceptable to you, I ſee not but that it will be neceſſary to adopt the ſecond Alternative — and that I muſt ceaſe preaching to you. ——

On the whole, as the Minds of many appear to be embittered againſt me (on other pretences indeed) but, as I believe, on account of the Doctrines which I preach; and falſe, malicious Reports, which have been ſpread

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concerning me, I am apprehenſive that this is the most expedient thing that can be done.—

Should you judge ſo, and be deſirous of employing ſome other Perſon, I will not ſtand in the way; but will give you all the aſsiſtance in my power, toward obtaining one, who may exhibit Truth to you, in a Form more ſuited to your Taſte, than I have been able to do.

I am Gentlemen, your Friend & humble Servant,

Wm Robinson

Southington
Dec. 21. 1801—

Wm R. to Society [illegible]
Dec 21. 1801.

P.S. If it be not agreeable to you to make the addition to my Salary, which I have propoſ'd above; as you have already voted, that you will not pay me the ſtipulated ſum, I ſhould think it not worth while, in the preſent ſituation of things, to take a Vote on that ſubject again; but to let the Queſtion be, whether you are willing that I ſhall take a diſmiſsion.—